

TRAVEL MICHAEL BRADY FINDS LOCHSIDE FAMILY FUN NEAR A COSY HOTEL

EARN A GOOD REPUTATION

LOCATED on the north shore of Loch Earn with stunning views across the water to Ben Vorlich and the B-listed 16th century towerhouse Edinample Castle, sits The Clachan Cottage Hotel.

Originally built as a row of cottages the hotel now consists of 21 ensuite rooms – each one newly refurbished, many of which overlook the loch – and sits in the village of Lochearnhead, which is only 12 miles from Callander and 29 miles from Stirling, in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Our double room was

travel file

We booked a double and a twin room at The Clachan (clachancottagehotel.co.uk or call 01567 830247) and stayed for two nights, Saturday and Sunday, bed and breakfast. It cost

£47.50pppn for the double and £42.50pppn for the twin. The Banana Boat ride costs £10pp, kayaking is £20pp per hour, including wet suits. www.lochearnhead-water-sports-centre.com

huge and overlooked the loch. It had clean decor with large bathroom, king-size bed, flat screen freeview TV/DVD combi and tea/coffee making facilities. The kids' twin bedroom was equally as welcoming, located on the second floor with a rear garden view.

Under an hour's drive from Glasgow on a cold and wet summer Saturday

afternoon it was a very welcoming site to be greeted by the log-burning fire in the cosy bar/lounge area.

We decided to eat in the lounge as there was a large birthday function in the restaurant area.

The bar menu has a varied selection of dishes to suit every taste, ranging from starters at £2-£6 and mains priced between £9-£11. There



■ The Clachan Cottage Hotel is just the place to escape the more inclement weather

is also a kids' menu.

The staff were all extremely pleasant and helpful and nothing seemed too much bother considering the hours they put in between serving meals, working the bar and then serving you breakfast next day.

If you are a cyclist then this spot provides an ideal opportunity to explore the Glenogle trail and the

Lowland Highland Trail which uses forest tracks, traffic-free trails and minor roads.

We chose to head for the Lochearnhead Watersports Centre, run by friendly couple Martin and his partner Laura. It is just a few minutes walk from the hotel. We decided to try out the banana boat ride and some kayaking. The last time I tried a banana boat

ride it was under a clear blue Mediterranean sky, with temperatures in the 80s and a plunge into warm water should you lose control. Here in Scotland it is advisable to wear a wet suit provided by the centre ... you will need it!

It was all great fun and the kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We are looking forward to our next trip to The Clachan Cottage Hotel.

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